



San Diego City Attorney **CASEY GWINN**

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 15, 2002

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DAVID SHERMAN—2001 PROSECUTOR OF THE YEAR

City of San Diego Honors Deputy City Attorney

San Diego, CA: San Diego City Attorney Casey Gwinn announced at today's City Council meeting that David Sherman is the "2001 Prosecutor of the Year" in the office of the San Diego City Attorney. Sherman is the Supervising Trial Deputy in the Criminal Division. He began his career with the City Attorney's Office in 1999 as a Deputy City Attorney. Sherman has successfully tried complex cases including manslaughter, hate crimes, grand theft, embezzlement, criminal threats, battery and resisting arrest. "David Sherman is everything the public could ask for in a prosecutor—committed to excellence, tireless in his work ethic, and above reproach in his integrity," said San Diego City Attorney Casey Gwinn.

Highlights of his trial career include: a) June 2001, Sherman prosecuted a tough manslaughter case. A man was killed in his car by a driver running a red light. The victim's wife and small child were seriously injured. The defendant argued that his foot had slipped off the brake. In addition, the jury was not allowed to hear about the defendant's prior driving record or his drug or alcohol use. However, Sherman convinced the jury it was no accident. The defendant was sentenced to one year in custody; b) September 2001, Sherman prosecuted a 20 year Navy veteran on charges of grand theft, receiving stolen property and embezzlement. The defendant committed the crimes while working at the commissary at the Miramar military base. Military officials say Sherman's aggressive investigation and prosecution sent a message to the base that employee theft will not be tolerated; c) Sherman prosecuted a man for hate crimes. The defendant tried to run a victim off the road because the victim was gay. The District Attorney's Office refused to prosecute the case as an attempted murder. Sherman, however, decided to proceed and charged the defendant with a battery/hate crime. Sherman won the trial and the defendant received the maximum one year in jail; Sherman prosecuted a man for battery

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and disturbing the peace at San Diego Community College. The man was a disgruntled former student who was terrorizing the staff regarding an ongoing academic appeal. The defendant was convicted and received 30 days in jail; and d) Sherman prosecuted a man for assaulting his mother's boyfriend. The defendant claimed he was not present and had an alibi. He also pressured his mother to testify on his behalf. The defendant was convicted and received 30 days in jail.

Sherman is not only an outstanding trial attorney, but he also trains and supervises all the deputy city attorneys in the Criminal Division of the City Attorney's Office. In his role as the Supervising Trial Deputy, Sherman is the "trouble-shooter," evaluating difficult and high-profile cases for the Office. His skills and expertise are also sought throughout the country. He has provided training for the National District Attorneys Association, California District Attorneys Association, all three local law schools and the San Diego Police Academy. Sherman also conducts training for police officers at the Police Academy both for new recruits and veteran officers on an ongoing basis. "It's a privilege to work for the City Attorney's Office which is committed to helping people and providing valuable public service every single day in San Diego," said David Sherman. "The more we can improve the lives of citizens and help resolve conflicts and solve problems, the more we help strengthen confidence that our systems of government work for the people."

Sherman is also an active participant on the City Attorney's Diversity Steering Committee helping with the many cultural events this committee sponsors. His colleagues find him to be an "extremely caring tactful and professional employee who is truly committed to the City's Norms and Values and puts them into practice." In addition, Sherman also participates in many community activities including serving on the County Hate Crimes Task Force Steering Committee, the San Diego County Bar Association Criminal Section Steering Committee and is an active member of the Thomas Homann Law Association. And for the last several years, Sherman and his dog, Justice, have been regulars at the annual Liberty Walk which raises monies for domestic

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violence programs.

Prior to being hired at the City Attorney's Office, Sherman practice law in Arizona for more than 15 years as a prosecutor, defense attorney and civil litigator. He is a graduate from the State University of New York at Albany and received his law degree from New England School of Law. Sherman is a current adjunct faculty member at Thomas Jefferson School of Law and University of San Diego School of Law.

Sherman was selected by the San Diego City Attorney's Leadership Team from an outstanding list of nominees from the Criminal Division who were recommended by colleagues. In 1998, San Diego City Attorney Casey Gwinn established a Prosecutor of the Year Award. The Award recognizes the Deputy City Attorney whose professional accomplishments and abilities and whose contributions to the community best demonstrate and fulfill the mission of the Criminal Division of the San Diego City Attorney's Office. The Criminal Division provides legal services to the public with professionalism, integrity, and excellence, focusing on (1) aggressive, just and effective prosecution; (2) early intervention and proactive lawyering; and (3) promoting public awareness of legal issues affecting the people of San Diego.

The Mayor and the San Diego City Council commended David Sherman and presented him with a proclamation, declaring the day in his honor. July 15, 2002, "David Sherman Day" in the City of San Diego. He also received a standing ovation from the Mayor, the San Diego City Council, the City Attorney, and from colleagues in the audience, recognizing David Sherman for his accomplishments.

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